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"Woman's Right to Labor"; but the very excellence of her book rendered a corroborative letter needless, and the title would give one reason to suppose this letter a mere appendix to a treatise in itself complete and satisfying. It is, in fact, an entirely independent document, and an intensely interesting autobiography. As such it ought to have been published, and as such we earnestly commend it to our readers. The author, in almost every particular, shows herself worthy of distinguished regard, and has reached the position of high and extended influence which she now holds by vigorous self-culture, fearless enterprise, and strenuous industry, against drawbacks and discouragements which would have driven many a strong man to despair. Her life has been fruitful in exciting incident, and is rich in instruction and encouragement to those, whether men or women, who are conscious of the capacity to excel, but whose way to success must be fought inch by inch against almost insurmountable obstacles. The story is told simply and unostentatiously, and the author commands, without claiming, the warm and hearty sympathy of her readers.

23. — *History of the United Netherlands: from the Death of William the Silent to the Synod of Dort. With a full View of the English-Dutch Struggle against Spain, and of the Origin and Destruction of the Spanish Armada.* By JOHN LOTHROP MOTLEY, LL. D., D. C. L., Corresponding Member of the Institute of France, Author of "The Rise of the Dutch Republic." Volumes I., II. New York: Harper and Brothers. 1861. 8vo. pp. 532, 563.

THE valued contributor who reviewed Dr. Motley's former work gave us reason to hope for a full analysis of these volumes for our present issue; but unavoidable engagements have compelled him to delay the fulfilment of this promise, which will be redeemed in our July number. We will not anticipate him by any minute criticism. Yet it is due to the author — though we can say but little more — to say that he has fully met, we think transcended, the general expectation authorized by "The Rise of the Dutch Republic." His style seems to us less elaborately rhetorical, yet of a higher finish and more genuine beauty, than before. At the same time, the dramatic power, which constitutes one of his choice endowments as an historian, has grown by exercise, while it has been eminently favored by opportunity. Indeed, for vivid circumstantial narrative, and the life-like presentation of both primary and subordinate actors, the plan, no less than the scene of this work, is eminently adapted. We have here only half of the

history of a period of thirty-four years, and these two volumes cover a space of but five years. There is thus room for life-size portraits and minute description and characterization. It may suggest itself to our readers, that, if all history is to be written thus, the student would need the age of an antediluvian to make himself master of it. We reply, that the student learns more of man and of Providence from the thorough laying open of a single eventful period, in the way of which we have so admirable an example before us, than he could gather from a library full of what are called condensed and comprehensive histories, which bear the same relation to history proper that an index bears to the volume to which it is appended. Moreover, with the multitude and accessibleness of reference-books in our day, there is not the need that there was a half-century ago for committing to memory names, dates, military details, and the like; and the time that was wont to be given to this no longer useful labor may well be bestowed on histories worthy of the name.

24. — *The History of Cape Cod. The Annals of Barnstable County, including the District of Mashpee.* By FREDERICK FREEMAN. Vol. I. Boston: 1860. 8vo. pp. 803.

WHAT we have just said about the study of history applies with no little force to limitedly local histories like the one which we have now taken up. Nothing is wanting to the general usefulness of a town or county history, except a general interest in the place and its inhabitants. The minute insight which such a work gives us into motives and character, the detailed view of one of the laboratories for the formation of generals, statesmen, and scholars, the inspection of the separate elements thrown together into the caldron of revolution, with the progressive action of each on each, and of the fire on each and all, — these are profoundly instructive to him who would understand well his own species, or any one of its larger or smaller subdivisions. As we would have the student of geography commence with the description of his own native neighborhood, street, town, with the nearest rivers and mountains, and thence derive standards of measurement and estimate to be carried through all terrestrial spaces, so it would be well for the student of history to begin with his own birthplace, to learn how human nature has been developed, transmitted, and modified there, and to pass thence gradually to the affairs of nations and races. And we know not a better book to begin with than this; for though we are not all natives of Cape Cod, many of us are, and every